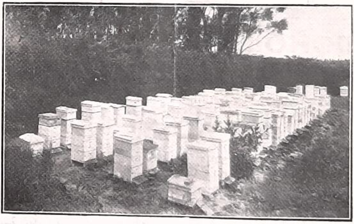
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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

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Apiary of Mr. E. G. Ward, Lakeside, Canterbury.

ISSUED MONTHLY

FOR

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 2 | Vol. 5 | 6/- Per Annum.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association on payment of fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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All communications respecting the Association and Journal to be sent to
FRED C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL.

The prospects for a good season have considerably improved in the North Island since our last month's notes were written, and the indications now are that it will be fair to good. Canterbury has suffered from too little rain, and unless they have had good rains recently the crop must be light.

* * * *

We noted with pleasure that our N.Z honey gained the gold medal for colonial honey at the Dairy Show held in London. It is a pity that ours was the only entry, but the fact that it was awarded the gold medal indicates at least that the produce was worthy of the prize.

* * * *

We are sorry to learn that our friends the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association Ltd. have gone into voluntary liquidation. This will not affect the shareholders of the H.P.A. very much, as practically no honey was forwarded to them last year, an arrangement being made to hold off for a year to enable them to clear up the stocks that had accumulated since the Armistice was declared.

* * * *

In the N.Z. Herald, dated January 12th, there are some very interesting remarks

made by Sir Thos. Mackenzie, late High Commissioner in London, on the Home market situation with regard to N.Z. produce. After touching on butter, cheese, meat and fruit, the report closes with the following:—

"New Zealand honey also stood exceedingly high at Home; indeed, one might say regarding New Zealand produce generally which was sent Home that it all stood in the very front rank, the honey with a strong lead."

Well done, N.Z. beekeepers! Sir Thomas was in London seven years, therefore had ample opportunity for learning the opinion of our various products; and for him to say that of them all honey takes a strong lead in general excellence is very high praise indeed. And it must be remembered that until the arrangements were made by the H.P.A. and their agents in England, N.Z. honey was unknown to the general public. Although a fair quantity was exported to England, our honey lost its identity on arrival there, and was sold as coming from anywhere but New Zealand. We hope the H.P.A. will be able to make arrangements that our honey shall be sold under our own brand as has previously been done.

* * * *

We learn from Dr. Abushady, of the "Bee World," that owing to the difficulty they have had in getting a proper mill for making the metal foundation, they are trying to evolve a composite drawn-out foundation as a compromise between the metal comb and embossed foundation. We have a dozen copies of the "Bee World" for distribution.

* * * *

We note that the inspectors are getting busy on the question of registration of apiaries, quite a number of people being brought to court. The magistrates evidently do not err on the side of harshness.

* * * *

The report of the investigations on the cause of Isle of Wight disease is very interesting reading, particularly the fact that the parasite that is evidently the cause of the trouble has been found to exist only in the bees domiciled in England, no trace of the trouble being found in the bees imported from other countries that were obtained for the purpose of examination. It is to be hoped that the investigations will be carried further, and a cure be found which will mean so much to our friends in England.

* * * *

The Executive of the National is meeting at Christchurch on February 9th. Anyone desirous of bringing any matter before the members, please address the Secretary, G.P.O., Christchurch, before that date.

* * * *

Will our readers please note that the Secretary-Editor will be away from home from January 24th till about the 18th February, as he has been asked by the Executive to make a tour of the Branches in the South Island. The itinerary at present is:—Clutha Valley, January 29th; Southland, February 2nd; Taieri (evening meeting), February 3rd; Canterbury, February 5th; possibly Greymouth, February 12th; and Hawke's Bay (evening meeting) on the return journey. Should there be a delay in answering correspondence, it will be accounted for by this fact. Any matter of urgency can be sent to G.P.O., Christchurch, to arrive there not later than the 9th inst.

* * * *

No claimant for the Journal sub. received from Christchurch advertised last month; also a blank slip and postal notes received from Little River January 5th.

* * * *

After the above notes were written, and just as we were going to press, we received a letter for publication from Mr. C. F. Ryland, of the H.P.A., bearing upon the matter of the liquidation of the Bristol and Dominions as it affects the shareholders of the H.P.A. Mr. Ryland has thoroughly explained the position, so that no comment on our part is called for.

* * * *

As it appears probable that the Editor will not arrive home early enough to get the next issue of the Journal out at the usual time, will our friends please note that it is likely the delivery will not be as early in the month as usual.

Market Reports.

Since our last report, lower prices have been accepted for Chilian honey. Pile 2 has been sold at 80/- per cwt.; Pile 3, 67/-; No Pile, 57/6. The total sales have not yet been reported, and the stock at the moment is very heavy; 115 cases Australian honey have been sold at 61/6 per cwt., and 38 packages West Indian at 61/- per cwt.

The beeswax market is very dull, but prices are just a little better; 40 bags Chilian have been sold at £10 10s. to £11 15s. per cwt., and African and other kinds have been selling at £6 to £7 per cwt.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, Nov. 4th, 1920.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the apiary instructors the following reports concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—The weather during December has been suitable for white clover growth, occasional showers being experienced. Bees generally are in good condition for the honey crop. Indications are exceptionally good for a heavy yield. Prices remain unchanged. Sections, from

10/- to 12/- per dozen; wax, 2/6 per lb.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—The weather conditions prevailing for the past month have been conducive to the secretion of nectar in the various flora; consequently bees generally are taking full advantage of the opportunity offered to fill their hives, and are mostly in a strong condition for the honey flow. The prospects for a good crop appear very bright. There is no honey coming forward as yet to the grading stores. Local market prices are remaining firm, the better grades securing the advantage. Beeswax is quoted at 2/6 per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—Conditions have greatly improved since last report. Excellent rains have fallen in the northern part of my district, this saving the situation, and good crops seem assured. In Southland and Otago the weather has been unfavourable since the spring. Generally the bees are in good order, and an average normal crop should be secured. Reports from the West Coast indicate that the prospects are excellent where the returns should be above the average. Prices are firm.—E. A. Earp.

High Commissioner's cable:—"London, January 26th: Honey—1671 packages of various sorts offered of this week's public sales were all withdrawn."

Beekeeping for Beginners.

[As these instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland Districts, an allowance must be made for difference in latitude North and South. Average bee-seasons in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

February generally means the close of the honey flow in normal seasons, although sometimes there is a light flow into March; but whatever is brought in then would do no harm in the brood-chamber. Therefore, one should take off all surplus honey at the end of this month, but be sure and keep at least one good comb of honey for every hive, because when finally closing down for winter, there is a possibility of finding one light in stores, and a good comb of honey is just what is wanted. Even if none should be called for, the combs will not do any harm if placed in a super over the strongest colony to be taken care of till the spring. There is a feeling of satisfaction in knowing you are prepared for a poor spring should it come along.

Now is a good time to re-queen weak hives with aged queens, as a young queen introduced now will ensure a good strong hive for wintering. Old queens very often die through the winter, and the hives get robbed out through lack of bees to defend the stores. Order the number you require, and when they arrive kill the old queen, and introduce new queen by the cage method, releasing after 48 hours.

Robbing is easily possible when the flow is over, as you have a large number of bees with very little work to do, and they very soon find out faulty hives and weak colonies. Replace at sundown any hives that are split; contract the entrances of all weak colonies. Do not leave anything in the shape of honey, pieces of combs, &c., about the apiary, as robbing is easier to start than to stop.

There are various ways of stopping robbing. One is to strew wet grass right over the entrance, keeping it wet with a watering can. Another method is to spread a carbolised cloth right over the hive and entrance. Another plan is to place a very strong hive on the stand of the weak one that is being robbed out. I have been much amused by watching the proceedings when I did this.

F. C. B.

District Reports.

TARANAKI.

We have experienced perfect weather for the greater part of the last four weeks, and a good crop is assured. The flow was dwindling away last week and the pastures becoming very dry; but thanks to a good day's rain yesterday, we are hoping for a return of the heavy flow. Extracting has commenced, and the quality is as good as ever, but the lack of tins is hanging up operations all round.

This old stunt of altering regulations at the eleventh hour is just about played out. It gives a fellow no time to arrange for supplies, and it will be a happy day for the beekeeper when he can safely say six months ahead that he will require a certain class of package.

Swarming seems to have been bad in most districts, but in spite of the good season I have had less trouble than ever.

The weather has been so settled and the bees so busy that in many cases where they built cells, they pulled them down again in preference to swarming, and carried on with the good work.

H. R. PENNY.

Okaiawa, 16/1/21.

HAWKE'S BAY.

As the weather affects the beekeeper as much as it does the harvester, we must condole with other writers to the Journal. All the show of clover and promise of a good season has ended in a hot, dry summer. Those hives that were strong early have gathered a fair amount of honey; but the weaker hives are storing very little. From some sources robbing has been reported, but we hope this is not general.

Our Field Day at Pukeora Military Sanatorium has had to be put forward a week. There is a very fair interest being taken in this event; and should the weather be propitious the day will be useful both to patients and to visitors.

There is a stir being made over foulbrood, but a more general dread of the disease is needed. Most men with bees in this district pay no heed to it; while some others who do give it a thought do not go at it by approved methods. If, however, any organisation is devised as suggested in the January issue, there are a number of beekeepers ready to do their part.

J. P. BOYLE.

January 17th, 1921.

SOUTHLAND.

Southland has been off the map as far as the Journal is concerned for some months, but has returned to the old place again.

We had a very mild winter, and bees were in good shape at the beginning of September; but October weather was very bad, and they got very low in stores. November was worse, and unless the beekeeper could feed sugar, his losses were serious. Foul-brood has been taking a heavy toll, and at the first of December prospects looked black. Fortunately good weather set in about ten days ago, and now the bees are bringing in honey and building up rapidly. If the main honey flow should be late, we may yet secure a good crop. The bees are not yet strong enough to cope with the flow if it should come on immediately, but we are all hopeful that it will arrive about the 10th January, and then we shall have a force to cope with it.

On the 18th December we had a preliminary Field Day at Mr. Allan's Apiary at Roslyn Bush, and as weather conditions proved favourable, the beekeepers had a real good day. Quite a number of beginners were present, and Mr. Allan (who had the lion's share of the work) provided a very complete beginner's course of instruction, taking them from the first round of the hives in August through the dangers of foul-brood, the risk of starvation in late spring, or half-starved colonies that fail to build up afterwards; then the swarming problem, the Alexander, the Doolittle, and the Rentoul methods were all touched on; also the question of ripening honey on the hives, the dangers of extracting unripe honey, and finally the importance of a liberal supply of stores for winter and spring. Many questions were asked and answered satisfactorily; a number of new friends was discovered; several members were secured; three Journal subscribers added to the list; a most bountiful and enjoyable lunch and tea were provided by Mrs. Caldwell, and the beekeepers set out for home, to find on arrival that the bees had put in a big day's work in their absence. Could a man ask for more?

In the December Journal I noticed that you had a correspondent at Pukerau whom you advised to write to me re Field Day arrangements. No enquiry has as yet come along, but I shall take the liberty of sending him a notice of the meeting before it is due.

I am pleased to notice a few Southland names appearing in your subscribers' list, mostly unknown to me, but I hope to get in touch with some of them through the post before Field Day, which may result in a visit to that important function and, let us hope, a few more additions to our membership.

One of the noticeable events recently was a visit from Mr. E. P. Brogan to the Wyndham and Mataura districts, and as a result quite a crop of prosecutions of unregistered beekeepers and box-hive men. This will have a salutary effect on others in like cases, and although unpleasant for those concerned, will do more to compel attention than any amount of friendly remonstrance with those who refuse or neglect to comply with the law.

We hope to receive a good deal more attention from the inspectors in the early part of the year, and if we get what we are looking for, we will give our great enemy foul-brood a fairly extensive shaking up.

The weather conditions prevailing in the south up to the end of November were of the most discouraging description, and weak colonies were alarmingly common at that time. During the last three weeks of December and the first fortnight of January there has been a delightful change. Bright sunshine, varied with an occasional shower, has prevailed, and in consequence the bees have responded wonderfully. Honey has come in, and breeding has gone ahead in good style. One beekeeper said yesterday that what we need now is a week of cold wet weather to check the clover and prolong the period of bloom. Provided the season does not shut down too early, we should get a good crop yet.

We are looking forward to our Field Day at Mr. Hemmingsen's apiary at Seaward Bush on 2nd February, when we expect to have a gathering that will be both enjoyable and profitable. Everybody welcome.

January 17th, 1921.

L. IRWIN.

NELSON.

The first Field Day of the above was held at Mr. P. Martin's apiary, Umukuri, but unfortunately the weather turned out wet, and the demonstrations were abandoned. However, those who attended were amply repaid by a lecture on "The Anatomy of the Bee," by Mr. C. B. Morris, Riwaka, who went thoroughly into the subject of the various bees, queen, drone and worker; also the different races—Black, Ligurian, Carniolan, Egyptian, and Chinese. The senses of bees were described, and the lecturer pointed out the

fact that bees were fond of colours in the following order:—Blue, white, yellow, red, green and orange. The lecture was greatly enjoyed, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed at the close. After the lecture, Mr. Morris handed round some beautifully prepared slides of the queen, worker and drone, and also of an enemy of the bee, the bee-hawk. Those present also had the pleasure of examining through the microscope different parts of the bee. Members were entertained at afternoon tea by Mr. and Mrs. Martin. Owing to the inclement weather, it was decided to hold another Field Day, and we were fortunate this time, both as regards the weather and the presence of Mr. E. A. Earp, apiary instructor, and the meeting was a great success.

Mr. Earp gave a very interesting and instructive talk, touching on the most important points for success in the industry, and gave a demonstration of manipulation at the hives.

The President, Mr. C. B. Morris, in moving a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Earp, expressed the hope that he would favour the district with another visit in the near future, a remark that was greeted with general applause.

The office-bearers of the Branch are:—President, Mr. C. B. Morris; Vice-Pres., Mr. P. Martin; Secretary-Treas., Mr. G. H. Sargeant; auditor, Mr. G. Wells; Committee—Miss C. M. Vosper, Messrs. G. Smith, H Minchin, P. McGlen.

MALVERN.

Prospects for a good season in this district are rapidly reaching vanishing point. Rain is badly needed—in fact, it is a long time since we had such a hot, dry season. Intense heat and hot, dry winds have parched the country up so that it is hard to find a green spot anywhere. The hills which usually stand dry weather well are assuming a dry brown appearance; consequently the bees are gathering little more than is required for their own use. Unless we have a good rain very soon, crops of honey will be very light.

Mr. Earp gave a demonstration at Mr. Wroth's apiary at Sheffield on January 13th. Upwards of twenty people interested in beekeeping turned up, and although a strong nor'-easter was blowing, a very interesting afternoon was spent. Starting with some very good advice on the subject of the co-operative marketing of honey, Mr. Earp then explained the use of the modern bee-hive; the advantages of using foundation; how to use and how not to use excluders, &c. After answering a number of questions, the company repaired to the bee-yards, where a practical demonstration of handling bees was given. A hive of bees was also put through treatment for disease. After those present had partaken of afternoon tea kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Wroth, Mr. Morrison proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Earp for his interesting and instructive demonstration. This was carried by acclamation. Mr. Earp then proposed a vote of thanks to the host and hostess for the use of the apiary, and also for their kindness in providing afternoon tea, &c.

One of your correspondents wants to know where Malvern is. Well, let him take a railway map of Canterbury. Say he starts with Springfield, draws a line to Darfield, and then to Whitecliffs, he will have the boundaries of the district near enough. Inside this triangle are the Malvern Hills, from which the district takes its name. Rainfall is above the average for the Canterbury Plains. The principal drawbacks are high nor'-west winds and disease. Honey produced is of good quality, being mostly clover and dandelion.

J. E. YEOMAN.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL BRANCH.

This is just to remind all interested that our Field Day is on Wednesday, February 16th, at the Ruakura State Farm. A hearty welcome extended to all.

Demonstrations with the Bartlett-Miller melter and Hatch wax-press will be held.

A. H. DAVIES.

CANTERBURY BRANCH.

The annual Field Day will be held at the Government Farm, Avondale, on Saturday, February 5th. Visitors will take the Fendalton car to the terminus at Clyde road. We will have a conveyance to take them from there to the apiary, which is about two miles distant. We shall be pleased to see all old friends, and cordially invite all those interested in the industry to attend.

J. MACKAY,
Secretary.

Outbreak of Fire at the H.P.A. Depot.

A serious outbreak of fire occurred at the Stanley Street Depot in Auckland at midnight on the 5th January, resulting in serious damage to the building, the complete destruction of the melting and tinning plant, with a lot of supplies. Although the loss, amounting to about £2,000, is covered by insurance, the occurrence will naturally cause considerable delay in all departments.

The damage is being speedily rectified, and it is hoped to have everything in working order again very shortly.

If ever you get stung by your wife or anybody else, forget it. It's an antidote, quick, sure. Try it. If you get stung by a wasp or a bee, rub an onion on the wound. It's an antidote, quick, sure. Try it!—D. M. P. S., Western Honey Bee.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. Ward.

I suppose all Canterbury beekeepers will be able now to estimate what crop they are likely to harvest. In the early part of the season I risked a good deal by saying I thought the season was likely to be an exceptionally good one, and now I am half sorry I said anything about it. Judging by what is on my own hives at the present time and weather conditions which have ruled, there will not be anything to go into ecstacies about. Perhaps along the hills there may have been more rain and a better honey flow, but on the Plains the temperature, especially since the New Year, has been above normal. On Boxing Day we had a nice rain, following the hottest Christmas Day I can remember. Since then till January 15th we had continual dry, hot weather. On January 15th and morning of the 16th we had a splendid rain, which I hope will have the effect of giving a good late honey flow and put the bees in good shape for winter.

Whenever any ambiguity appears in a publication, the usual practice is to blame the printer. On page 215 (December issue), in my reference to prevention of swarming, the word "not" appears. If any of my readers are sufficiently interested in the subject and care to turn up the page again, will they please cut out that "not," so they will get my meaning correctly. I should think brother Penny must have thought I had tied myself into a "knot" when he read it, judging by what he says in the January issue. I am not going to throw bricks at the printer, but hope the above will "clear the air."

I see Mr. Young has been rounding up a few delinquents in the Ellesmere district for failing to register their apiaries. The defence in most cases was ignorance of the law, but the "beak" was unsympathetic, "hardened his heart," and fined four of them one shilling and costs each. I said in last month's "Tales" our magistrates had a soft spot in their hearts for the sinner, but I see I was quite wrong, and withdraw the accusation unreservedly.

In reading J. L. Byers' notes in the November issue of "Gleanings," I find the following:—"Prices seem to have a downward tendency, largely caused by quite heavy importations of New Zealand honey, which is being laid down at a price much lower than our own product was bringing." I am sure there are many besides myself will wonder "what's in the wind" on seeing such a statement. Surely there is "something rotten in the State of Denmark" (or N.Z.) if our honey can be sold in Ontario for less than locally produced. I remember reading some years ago that some of the English merchants had got Australia and New Zealand mixed up in such a way that in a reply to a letter soliciting an order for N.Z. honey, it was explained that there was no market in England for Australian honey. I wonder if there has been another mix up?

It was reported recently that the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association had gone into voluntary liquidation, and a few days after a report of an interview with Mr. C. F. Ryland, manager for the H.P.A., appeared. The reason I refer to the subject is just to utter a word of warning to all and sundry not to get into a "funk" about it. I am well aware that the B. and D. has had much to do in helping the New Zealand beekeepers to organise, and am sorry to learn that according to the report the liquidation has been brought about chiefly through over-buying honey, syrups, and canned fruits; but we have the satisfaction of knowing that our Company is being directed by some of the best brains in the industry, and managed by a thoroughly capable business man. I feel more than ever justified in urging ALL beekeepers to take as many shares as possible in the H.P.A. "United we stand; divided we fall"—flop!

I consider the article copied from the American Bee Journal—"Do Young Hatched Queens Need Royal Jelly?"—a very valuable contribution to bee literature, and incidentally am pleased to notice that such a noted queen breeder as Jay Smith is on my side as regards cell protectors. Perhaps I ought to say instead that I am on Jay Smith's side, in case he should see these "Tales," and wonder what sort of company he has got into. I have sometimes, when the weather has been unfavourable, allowed the virgins to hatch into nursery cages, and have had the experience of finding dead queens in them where, at my previous examination, there had been a frisky virgin. My cages have wire cloth both sides. Jay Smith says the bees thin down the point of the cell when able to get to them, and anyone who has done queen rearing will have noticed this. When visiting Mr. Jacobsen's apiary one field day some years ago, I remember him telling those who heard him give a talk on queen rearing that he was in the habit of thinning the point of the cell with his knife, as he found that his queens were sometimes unable to get out when the wax was left on. I have done the same thing since hearing him, and the "kink" is a good one; but after all I do not doubt that it is better to leave the job to the bees themselves.

Once more: "To protect or not to protect—that is the question." I cannot recall ever having had a cell torn down by queenless bees. However, I shall be doing some re-queening shortly by means of ripe cells, and shall kill the old queen and insert the cell unprotected immediately, and will faithfully report results. I have just lately made up twenty-one nuclei, and in each case given an unprotected cell at once. Sixteen out of eighteen of the first batch are laying; two have disappeared, and the remaining three are too young to

mate yet. I will freely admit that these are all nuclei which were made by taking brood from other hives and placing on another stand; but if it is unnatural for bees to suddenly find themselves with a ripe cell in a full hive, it is equally unnatural for two or three frames of bees to find themselves in another location with a cell on the brood which they had no hand in building. No, bees do not reason on lines of human intelligence.

Failure of Bristol & Dominions Producers' Assn., Ltd.

[Extract from Star, Jan. 7, 1921.]

AGENCY COMPANY'S FAILURE.

BIG BRISTOL CONCERN.

DEALINGS IN NEW ZEALAND.

London, Jan. 6.

Shareholders in the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association have decided to liquidate voluntarily, and have appointed a committee of inspection.

The Australian Press Association understands that the cause of the trouble is chiefly over-buying of honey, syrups, and canned goods, which have declined heavily.

[The Bristol and Dominions' Co. has acted as the chief agent for the sale of New Zealand honey in England for several years, and has done much valuable work in popularising the Dominion product throughout the country.]

[Extract from N.Z. Herald, Jan. 10, 1921.]

EXPORT OF HONEY.

DISTRIBUTION IN BRITAIN.

PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION.

EXTENSION THIS SEASON.

The decision of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association to go into voluntary liquidation was discussed on the 8th January by Mr. C. F. Ryland, of Auckland, general manager of the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association.

Mr. Ryland said the Bristol and Dominions' Association had done much for the honey producers of the Dominion, and it was largely due to the efforts of Major A. E. M. Norton, managing director of the Association, that the honey producers had been induced to export to England. Until last year the Association had handled all the honey exported from New Zealand to Britain. Owing to shipping difficulties and also to the fact that other markets seemed more favourable than those of Britain, practically none of last year's crop had been sent Home. In any case (said Mr. Ryland) the liquidation of the Home Association in no way affected the New Zealand honey producers. All the honey exported to Britain was on consignment, and the New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association was in no way connected with the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association. He added that the recent developments in connection with the latter Association would come as a surprise to the New Zealand branch of the Association. When Major Norton was recently in Auckland, he stated there was every indication that the Association would have a prosperous year. In reference to the suggestion that the cause of the Association deciding to go into liquidation was chiefly over-buying of honey syrups and canned goods, Mr. Ryland said there had been no speculation in New Zealand honey. The statement probably referred to goods bought from Cuba, Jamaica and perhaps the United States at a time when they were very scarce at Home.

Referring to the outlook for New Zealand honey, Mr. Ryland said the prospects were good. Prices had been high during recent years, and a slight drop might be expected. There was a firm demand for the New Zealand product at Home, and the avenues for its disposal would not be affected by the liquidation of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association. In fact, he said, arrangements were already being made for the New Zealand Honey Producers' Association to take a more active part in the sale and distribution of New Zealand honey at Home. He added that none of the new season's honey had yet been shipped.

The H.P.A. and the B. & D.

Many of our New Zealand beekeepers have been very much disturbed at the news that the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, who have for some years handled our honey in Great Britain, have gone into voluntary liquidation. We have received numberless enquiries on the subject, and I have no doubt that a statement of the position as it affects the N.Z. Co-operative Honey Producers' Association will interest your readers.

This is not the time nor place to comment on the business methods or dealings of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, nor have we sufficient information to enable us to accurately form an opinion as to the precise causes which have led to the liquidation. Rumours reached us some time back to the effect that the B. and D. had purchased considerable quan-

tities of honey from other countries at a time when our N.Z. honey was held up in the Dominion for lack of shipping, and we were given to understand that these honeys had been sold at a profit.

Unfortunately, when our 1918 season's honey arrived Home in 1919, together with a large portion of the 1919 crop, conditions in England so far as the honey market was concerned were very much against sales; the market price of all honey had dropped enormously, consequent upon the signing of the Armistice, while enormous quantities of honey began to arrive from all honey producing countries. With the undoubted speculation which had been going on in Great Britain during the preceding two years, and the large quantities of honey arriving, it was inevitable that a slump should occur, and it is evident that the New Zealand producers are very heavy sufferers by reason of the fact that their honey could not be shipped during the reign of high prices, and that when shipping was available a slump had already set in.

We understand that a number of shipments from New Zealand were held up in dock for very many months, and that they were ultimately said to show signs of heavy leakage and fermentation. This apparently hindered realisation by the B. and D., as no account sales have yet been received covering the honey in question.

At the moment it is difficult to say whether there will be a loss on such shipments, or whether there will be further realisations collectable from the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association. Every effort is being made to obtain complete account sales and returns from Bristol, and the position will be ascertained at the earliest possible date.

So far as the 1920 honey is concerned, our directors, realising something of the position at Home last year, and feeling that everything was not in order, sent only a few cases to the B. and D., practically the whole crop being marketed in New Zealand, United States, and Canada. Cash payments have been realised for the whole of the 1920 honey, less small stocks on hand and a few cases in Great Britain, and there will be further substantial payments to be made very shortly by way of further advances to 1920 shareholder-suppliers of the H.P.A. It is a very fortunate thing that we did not send our honey to Great Britain last year through the ordinary channels. By finding other markets and doing the business on practically a cash basis, we are probably several thousand pounds to the good.

So far as the 1918 and 1919 honey is concerned, the probability is there will be little chance of our obtaining further returns over and above the substantial advances already received, and which have been paid out to the suppliers; but, as previously indicated, it will be some little time before we know the real position.

Most of your readers will be glad to know that the liquidation of the B. and D. in no way affects the financial stability nor future progress of the H.P.A. Indeed, we shall be able to make very satisfactory arrangements for the disposal of our honey in Great Britain and elsewhere; and although we may not be able to obtain a guaranteed price, we shall probably be able to retain control of the sale, packing, and distribution of our own honey in Great Britain; and if that eventuates it will be one of the greatest things which has happened for the producers of honey in New Zealand. It will enable them to make certain that New Zealand honey is packed and sold as New Zealand honey; and it will enable them, to a certain extent at any rate, to regulate the distribution and to pack honey in a manner which will enable the producers here to take advantage in all upward fluctuations of the market at Home.

At the present time the honey markets of the world are apparently demoralised. There is very little honey selling in the United States and Canada, in Great Britain or on the Continent, and it is doubtful whether the honey market generally will recover for a year or two. We, however, have reason to believe that with our comparatively small production of first-class honey we can, by judicious marketing, so interest retailers and the public generally in Great Britain in our product as to obtain quite satisfactory prices this year.

Sir Thomas Mackenzie, who until lately has been High Commissioner in Great Britain for the Dominion of New Zealand, in a recent statement on New Zealand products and the Home market situation, published in the N.Z. Herald of January 12th, said he believed "that Great Britain was the market to which New Zealand should give her utmost attention; that New Zealand honey stood exceedingly high at Home; indeed, one might say regarding New Zealand produce generally which was sent Home, that it all stood in the very front rank, THE HONEY WITH A STRONG LEAD." If New Zealand honey has this reputation, properly marketed it will surely command top prices.

There is a feeling abroad, and has been for some time, that our honey has been selling in Great Britain at below its value. Under the new arrangements, the New Zealand producer can rest assured that we shall obtain the highest prices possible for his honey.

During last year, owing to the fact that we had shipped large quantities to America, Canada, &c., many New Zealand firms received enquiries from these countries for honey, and some of them will doubtless be in the market this year. I can assure the New Zealand beekeepers that there is very little likelihood of these markets being profitable in 1921, and I would urge them very strongly not to export any of their honey except through the H.P.A., but if there are beekeepers

sufficiently blind to their own interests and to the work which the H.P.A. have undertaken on their behalf as to seek other channels for the disposal of their honey, then I would recommend them strongly to sell outright at the highest possible prices obtainable, and not to allow the honey to be handled on consignment, except through their own Association, whose interests are theirs.

Those of your readers who read the American Journal "Gleanings" or the "American Bee Journal," will know that for many months the Editors of those papers, realising the trend of affairs, have fought hard to keep the honey producers together, and have impressed upon the producers the necessity of holding their honey for firm prices, and as a means of preventing an enormous set-back of prices in America have recommended that the producers should fix the rates at which they would sell their product, and wherever possible to sell only through their own Associations. This sensible policy has been the means of enabling the producer in America at the present day to obtain prices for his honey practically equal to those ruling during the last two years, and this has been accomplished at a time when, as the newspapers have shown, the producers of cotton, wheat, tobacco, and many other American primary products have had to accept slump prices—in some cases not one-third of the prices ruling last year.

Recent cables from America indicated that buyers of tobacco leaf in the States were offering 3 cents per lb. this year, while last year prices paid were from 30 cents to 35 cents. Conditions such as these are brought on by speculation, by the strength of private interests, and largely by the lack of co-operation amongst the producers themselves.

Our Association—the H.P.A.—stands for every producer of honey in the Dominion; its main object is to ensure the producer of honey a profitable and increasing monetary return year in and year out for his produce. This object, however, can only be accomplished when the N.Z. beekeepers wake up to the fact that a great deal more honey is produced in New Zealand than the people of the Dominion can consume, and that the only possible means of making a profitable market here is to handle the New Zealand honey by medium of one channel, whereby the Dominion crop can be marketed steadily throughout the year, prices kept firm, and the surplus exported.

The year just ended has been a very satisfactory one so far as the H.P.A. is concerned. The final figures will not be available until the end of this month, but our sales of "Imperial Bee" honey within the Dominion during 1920 were somewhere in the vicinity of £30,000, being an increase over the previous year of more than £12,000. The beekeepers' supplies department has also shown a phenomenal increase, the business done in this department during last year having nearly trebled, and shows an increase in the turnover of over £10,000.

I think we are entitled to look upon these figures as being evidence of the fact that "Imperial Bee" honey has found favour with the public, and that our venture into the beekeepers' supplies business has met with the appreciation of beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

In conclusion, I should like to say that we are doing everything that is possible to promote the interests of the producer, but the rest is up to him.

Yours faithfully,
THE N.Z. CO-OP. HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSN. LTD.
C. F. RYLAND,
General Manager.

Auckland, 20th January, 1921.

The Cause of Isle of Wight Bee Disease.

IMPORTANT RESULTS BY INVESTIGATORS AT ABERDEEN.

We had the pleasure of attending, by invitation, the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on Monday, November 1st, and hearing Dr. John Rennie and his collaborators read a series of papers, illustrated by micro-photographic lantern slides, on the work accomplished in their search for the cause of Isle of Wight disease in bees. That great interest is taken in this work was proved by the large audience of scientific men and women present, which included some of the most noted personalities in the medical profession.

For some years past an investigation has been conducted by Dr. John Rennie and his collaborators—Miss Harvey and P. Bruce White, B.Sc.—under a special Joint Committee of the University and the College of Agriculture at Aberdeen, on the cause of Isle of Wight bee disease. The funds necessary to finance the investigation have been provided equally by A. H. E. Wood, Esq., of Glassel, Aberdeenshire, and the Development Commissioners. In describing the work, the investigators made the important announcement that an organism had been discovered which they considered had been proved to be the causal agent in this disease. The authors stated that this disease had been known in bees in this country since 1904 at least, and it was still highly prevalent throughout the United Kingdom. Since 1907 investigations had been going on in England, and for a shorter period in Scotland. Eight years ago certain English workers claimed that the causal organism was a protozoan, named "Nosema apis." It was due to Anderson, of Aberdeen, to state that he

was the first to call in question this hypothesis, and more recent work from the Parasitology Laboratory at Aberdeen, under the Joint Committee above referred to, had shown "Nosema apis" to be a harmful parasite to bees, but not casually related to Isle of Wight disease. This disease had up till now remained an unsolved problem. The papers read by the Aberdeen Bee Research staff revealed the existence of a hitherto unknown type of parasitism in bees of a remarkable kind. In Isle of Wight disease, the respiratory system of the bee was invaded by an extremely small mite. It belonged to a genus known as "Tarsonemus." This creature, which was specialised in structure, was bred within the bees, and was confined to an extremely limited but very important region of its breathing system. Within the space of a few cubic millimetres scores of these creatures might be found in all stages of development, sometimes packed in dense columns so as effectively to cut off the air supply from the surrounding organs. The detailed pathology described in Mr. White's paper proved the destructive character of the parasites' habits. Thousands of bees had been examined from large numbers of stocks throughout the country, and it had been found that every stock reported by reliable beekeepers or certified by the investigators themselves as suffering from the disease harboured this parasite. Similarly, every individual bee known from its stock history and individual symptoms to be suffering from this disease was likewise found to contain these parasites, and to exhibit the internal disorders which caused the disabling symptoms. The investigators stated that they were now able to diagnose the disease in its earliest stages while the bees were capable of flying and foraging. Infection appeared to occur mainly in the hive, the conditions of the cluster making this comparatively easy. Mites have been obtained from the outside of the bee apparently on their migratory passage. The "Tarsonemes" included several species destructive to plants, and there were some which have been found in malignant growths in man and in animals. The bee "Tarsoneme" in its structure appeared to be more closely allied to these last.

The discovery is most important to beekeepers, and it would appear that at long last the casual agent of this pest has been run to earth. Other investigators will now have an opportunity of confirming or refuting the conclusions of the investigators at Aberdeen. Personally, after hearing the papers and seeing the magnificent microphotographic lantern slides prepared and shown by Dr. Rennie, in which not only had individual parasites been separated and photographed, but the trachea was shown in all stages of infection, and the life history of the mite from the egg to the perfect creature could be clearly seen in formation. It seems that the mite infests the trachea of the thorax only, entering by the spiracle. Here breeding takes place, until eventually the trachea becomes partially or wholly choked. In the latter case the bee dies at once, while in the former the bee is able to crawl; but as it cannot fill its air sacs it is unable to fly. In such cases the fæces are not evacuated, as normally this is accomplished when the bee is on the wing; hence the congested condition of the bowels and consequent staining of the combs, hive front, and the alighting board, symptomatic of Isle of Wight disease.

Interesting experiments of blocking up the thoratical spiracles with wax were described, and by this means all the usual symptoms of Isle of Wight disease were produced. The work is to proceed, and we sincerely hope that the investigators will be able to find a cure for the newly-discovered mite.

Many bees from different countries outside Great Britain had been examined, and so far "Tarsonemus" had not been found in these. All the evidence hitherto obtained points to the parasite in bees being peculiar to this country. This coincided with the general testimony regarding the hitherto insular character of Isle of Wight disease. The name of Isle of Wight disease had long been regarded as unsatisfactory, and it appeared that Acarine disease would be more appropriate. In view of the great practical interest shown by Mr. A. H. E. Wood, of Glassel, in the work of the research and of beekeeping generally, the director of the research proposed to designate the new species "Tarsonemus woodi." The investigators recorded their very high appreciation of the support of beekeepers throughout Great Britain, and also the Ministry of Agriculture in supplying bees and other assistance so essential for the successful conduct of the research.

We would here like to pay tribute to the thoroughly conscientious and painstaking work of Dr. Rennie on behalf of the craft. He has continued the work, exploring all possible channels, to find the cause of the disease, and as each proved to be wrong, he patiently began all over again, until at last he has apparently succeeded. His unselfish work, extending over several years, also refutes the statement made so many times by irresponsible persons that no investigation had been undertaken.

We cannot conclude without placing on record the patriotic spirit of Mr. A. H. E. Wood, without whose financial support the work would not have been possible. We are the more pleased to do this, as owing to his unobtrusive method of helping the craft, not only in this case but in many other ways, and extending over many years past, his generosity is known only to a few. We can assure beekeepers that they owe a deep debt of gratitude to this gentleman for the interest he takes and the invaluable assistance he has rendered to the craft.—British Bee Journal, Nov. 4th, 1920.

Virgins and Royal Jelly.

The article appearing in the January issue on the subject of virgins and their need for royal jelly is a most interesting subject, which I have been carefully considering for several seasons, and I hasten to write you my experiences and conclusions freshly arrived at.

My experience coincides mainly with those of Mr. A. C. Miller and Mr. Jay Smith, but I have not found that all virgins by any means consume the jelly; only a few do this, and the cell-cups always have to be given to a colony to polish and clean before grafting again.

Mr. J. Smith's description of virgins boring down into the wax base of the cell is very good; the virgin is dead, head in cell, and surrounded by particles of wax resembling sawdust. When I noticed this, the thought which first struck me was that the virgin was in some way abnormal or mad. Then I thought, as Mr. Miller and Mr. Smith do, that want of food was the cause of the trouble; therefore when caging the ripe cells, I put one to three workers into the cage with the cell; this practice I kept up for several seasons, and have just now abandoned it, because in many instances one or all of these bees would be found dead after the virgin had hatched.

Now let me suggest to our American relatives that all queens hatching must require similar food; therefore, why is it that out of a batch of a dozen virgins only one or two and perhaps none will be found to devour the old royal jelly, and die in the attempt to secure it?

How is it that quite half if not more will thrive without touching the royal jelly at all, while others will die gnawing fiercely into the solid wax base of the cell?

Personally I think the virgins whose cells have no royal jelly left after hatching have consumed it all while in the larval stage, and not after hatching; examination of cells immediately after the virgins emerge make it clear that in many cases this is so.

Now, I think all will agree that the food requirements of all virgins must be identical, and that if half or more of a batch can thrive under certain conditions, then the others should be able to do the same. Also, I am sure that all will agree that the individual dispositions of the queens must vary a great deal, and this fact I am sure accounts for what we have noticed. All queen breeders know what it means to leave a batch of cells uncared for after hatching is due. The first virgin to hatch will at most seasons of the year make remarkably quick work of the remaining cells. Now, when we cage 10 or 16 cells in a row nearly touching, the virgins when hatching know there are other queens hatching a few inches away by the piping, and those of a pugnacious nature make frantic endeavours to kill their rivals. It is this which accounts for the boring into the cell bases. The queens also attack the sides of the cells they have come out of, and tear them down or make holes in their sides in exactly the same manner as they do when destroying rival queens. I have often watched queens re-entering their empty cells and emerging through a hole they have made in the side. They keep doing this repeatedly in their attempts to get at and find their rivals.

I discovered the other day that it was the virgins which had killed the workers I put into the cages when securing the cells. It happened in this way. I was trying to shorten the work of introducing virgins to nuclei by running them in as soon as hatched direct from their cages into the nuclei the third day after removing the laying queen. In fact, I had so run in a lot of virgins, and had a lot of losses, so took special pains to watch the behaviour of run-in virgins on the occasion in question, and to my surprise several of these newly-hatched virgins attacked the first worker she met just as though that worker had been another virgin. It was only a few did this, just as it is only a few who kill the workers in the cages and gnaw out the old jelly. This clearly proved to me the disposition of these queens. If a number of young virgins is put together, the resulting fight is a very morbid and miserable affair; they crawl round one another; generally one seems particularly aggressive, and the others seem quite prepared and ready to be killed. Their attitudes under these circumstances are similar to the queens which die in the cells head down. There is no spirited cock-fight about it. Only a few weeks ago a virgin hatched from a cell which had an unusual amount of liquid jelly left in it. I found this virgin head in the cell, and on getting her out found her absolutely covered with the wet jelly from head to tail. Her body was elongated, and legs sprawled out; she curled her body, and wriggled about just as if she was in conflict with another queen. I thought she was done for, and put her straight into a nucleus out of the cage, and on examining a few days later found she was a beautiful queen, quite all right. I am positive that queen was not feeding on the jelly. The fact that some virgins will attack and kill workers when they cannot get at their rival virgins shows how the fighting instinct is very pronounced in some queens, while others live at peace with the workers in the cages.

I would ask Mr. J. Smith to try caging some more cells, and immediately the virgins hatch take a sharp knife, dip it into honey, and cut off the cell, just leaving a shallow cup sufficient to graft into again. The honey lubricates the knife and smears the cell base. Throw away the cell, and replace the cup to keep the queen in the cage. I always do this, and

have never yet seen a virgin come to any harm at all after so removing the old cell. They generally make for the honey smeared on the cup and feed.

I must say I have never observed that the workers feed newly hatched virgins, and have often watched virgins newly hatched, and it is a remarkable thing how absolutely the workers ignore them. They always make for an open cell of honey and feed themselves, and I have watched them searching for such a cell on a dry comb, and no worker take any notice of them at that age.

I am quite sure that during the swarming season the workers will on occasions, especially during bad weather, keep the virgins in the cells for days after they naturally would have hatched, and feed them through a small chink where they had started to gnaw out. This is an exceptional case of feeding. I have often come across several hives with a number of cells like this on one day, when I have been prevented by bad weather from destroying the cells earlier. As soon as you touch such a cell the cap opens, and a fully matured and active queen runs out. Such queens, if put into a nucleus, will mate and be laying far quicker than if the day they hatched on was the normal day. Their appearance and active manner, too, shows that they have been prevented from leaving the cell for some few days after they normally would have done so. I also believe that the workers feed virgins confined in cages, because as our friends across the waves have noticed, many of the virgins never touch the candy, and although I have not actually seen the workers feed the queens, they cluster on the gauze of the cage and take an interest in the queen inside; but this they always do with any confined bees.

Mr. J. Smith's experiments with cells hatched in nuclei and those in cages are interesting, but I do not see that they prove that the attention of the workers was the cause of the queens direct from the cells commencing to lay before those hatched in cages, and so introduced to the nuclei. In the first place, the uncaged cells hatched a day earlier than those caged, due no doubt to the extra heat. But this generally happens in any batch of cells; as a rule, the centre cells hatch from three or four to twelve hours before the cells at the outside of the cluster, due no doubt to the extra heat; but the outer queens are not at all inferior to the inner ones. Then, again, Mr. Smith keeps his virgins caged three days in the nuclei, so that even before they are liberated from the cages those hatched from cells will in fine weather be making a few preliminary flights, and no wonder they are laying before the caged ones.

The writer always tries to get his laying queens away three days before the virgins hatch, and as soon as ever the virgins hatch, the cells are cut off and the virgin caged at once in the nucleus, with only sufficient candy to keep her confined about twelve hours.

I have tried the giving of cells direct to nuclei, and have abandoned it because the queens are so easily injured just before hatching, and in cold or wet weather I think it is a risky thing handling ripe queen cells. Also, if the weather is cold at nights and the nucleus weak, the cells caged in a strong hive hatch before those put naked into a weak nucleus, and again I like to see the queens put into the nuclei. There are often a few queens which one destroys either for bad colour or being small. Sometimes a poor little queen hatches from a fine big cell and vice versa.

With regard to the time queens take to mate, this spring I made up a lot of nuclei; some were made by confining bees and brood for 48 hours from the home yard; others were made up from bees from an out-yard carried home in a swarm-box, wet down with a spray of water, and put with a mug into the nuclei, the virgin being dropped in among the wet bees. It was most remarkable how quickly and safely these queens with the broodless bees commenced laying, whereas those in the nuclei which possessed brood were much longer in commencing to lay, and also many more get lost.

Undoubtedly the bees in a nucleus do take notice of the queens; at the time when they should get mated, everyone has probably seen them fairly chase the virgins out of the hive on a fine day; and it is reasonable to assume that the broodless bees were more anxious to get their queens mated than those which had brood.

Another experience: To-day I was caging laying queens. On one side of a hedge I had 39 nuclei, and got only 20 laying queens; I think 16 are lost out of the 39. On the other side of the hedge I had 30 nuclei, and they did a great record this time—29 laying, and 1 still a virgin.

The weather has been perfect, and other nuclei have done well except some baby boxes. These as a rule do very well at this season, the swarming, which is their chief drawback, being over. However, they gave me a shock this time: out of a batch of 43 queens, no less than 17 are missing. I am absolutely at a loss to account for these queer discrepancies, unless it is that the wind caught those which have done so badly, while the others were sheltered on the day of mating. All the queens were about the same age and introduced under similar conditions. I mention these facts because personally I would be very cautious in putting much faith in mating as a guide to judge the queens by, because, given fair average queens, I think the condition of the bees in the nuclei has a lot to do with the way the queens mate. I fancy the bees kill most of the queens which get lost, either at the time of introducing or about the time of mating, when they are inclined to chase the queens, and sometimes ball them.

Can our friends in America give us any points of help regarding these strange losses which occur sometimes.

Renwicktown, Marlborough, 4/1/21.

Prosecutions Under the Apiaries Act.

Ed. P. Brogan, inspector of apiaries, proceeded against the following fourteen defendants for failing to register their apiaries, and in some cases failure to provide proper hives:—

P. J. McSweeney, Joseph Bungardt, Jas. Shanks, and Jas. McNeil, non-registration and failing to provide proper hives.

John Read, Jas. France, Jas. Hamilton, Mary Scanlan, Jas. Paul, and John Moore non-registration.

His Worship intimated that as sufficient notification had not been given in a paper circulating in the district, he did not intend to impose a penalty on this occasion, further than would defray the inspector's expenses (13/-). Each defendant would be convicted and fined 1/-, except James Paul, who did not realise that he, as occupier, was responsible for bees kept by his sister on his property. Any future contravention of the Act would be treated differently.

Alex. Young, inspector of apiaries, proceeded against David Le Comte that, being a beekeeper, he had failed to register his apiary. The defendant stated that he was unaware of the necessity of registration. He kept the bees for his own use.

Mr. Day: That makes no difference; you have to be registered.

A fine of 1/- and costs was imposed.

A similar charge was preferred against John Henry Skipworth, who pleaded not guilty. Defendant stated that he had sent in his registration card about the winter before last, and had received no reply. He was convicted and discharged.

Alexander Ireland, similarly charged, was convicted and discharged.—Clippings.

Failure to Register.—J. C. Hobbs, Palmerston North, eight convictions; fined £2 and 7/- costs on one, and 7/- costs on the seven other informations;—total, £4 16s. W. A. Allan, minister, Patea, fined 10/- and 7/- costs. R. Willis, Patea, F. Hammerton, Patea, G. Volkerling, Marton, were similarly dealt with; C. Martin, 7/- costs; H. E. Lloyd, Manaia, fined 5/- and costs (7/-); W. Schultz, Marton (box-hives), 40/- and 7/- costs; K. W. Deighton, Marton, failing to register, 10/- and 7/- costs; boxhives, 10/- and 7/- costs.

At a Branch Meeting

By W. B. K.

The meeting is called for 7.30 p.m. About 7.15 two members arrive. Five minutes later the secretary appears, quickly followed by the President. A bright little chat about bees and their strange ways keeps the party patient till 7.45, when a few more roll up. By 8 quite a fair number is present.

The President takes the chair, and calls upon the secretary to read the minutes. This done, they are confirmed by an audible "Aye" from two or three, and a grunt from several others.

The correspondence is meagre, the introduction of the higher rate of postage has considerably curtailed the host of circulars, &c., and even the General Secretary is doing his utmost to keep the revenue down, only writing when absolutely necessary.

We next come to the discussion of a small piece of business. The President speaks for a few minutes in explanation, and anyone looking round can notice half a dozen old beemen listening eagerly for the last word, ready to take the floor on the instant. All cannot be first, so the most determined wins. He mentions that he would like to say just a few words on the subject under discussion, and straightway launches forth. He talks the subject upside down and inside out, turns it over, and starts afresh. At long last he says he will not trespass any longer on the time of the meeting. With both hands on the back of the chair in front, he slowly lowers himself towards his seat. A sigh of relief is nipped in the bud, when he suddenly straightens up again, saying, "There is just one more point, Mr. Chairman, which I missed." The point is not worth mentioning, but we must compose ourselves to listen again. All things come to an end, however—even long speeches.

The next man is instantly on his feet, raps out about a dozen words, and is in his seat again almost before we realise that he has commenced to speak, and yet he has expressed his full opinion.

Another speaker keeps carefully to the point for fully a minute, then drifts off to foul-brood. The Chairman calls him to order, but all to no purpose: wherever he starts, the end is always foul-brood. At last he has to sit down, but only does so on the understanding that some future meeting shall be entirely devoted to his pet subject.

So the discussion goes wearily on. It is a positive relief when two "volcanic" gentlemen almost fly at each other's throats. One almost wishes it would happen oftener. It livens up a meeting wonderfully.

At last the business is finished. The Chairman remarks that as there is still a short time before closing, we will have a general bee talk. It certainly is general. There is not one silent beekeeper in the room. Anyone getting out of the maelstrom for a few minutes to listen, hears through the confused din:—"Foul-brood," "Isle of Wight," "Mr. Baines." "Apiary Tax," "H.P.A.," "Swarming," "Queen-rearing"; and just as the Chairman rises to close the meeting, a snatch of a conversation between two enthusiasts—"What did those pigs of yours fetch at the sale?"

Correspondence.

[The publication of any letter does not necessarily imply our agreement with the subject matter, and we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I do not think there is any need for me to say how very interested I am in reading the accounts of what the New Zealand Association are doing "down under." Since I first began to receive your Journal, New Zealand seems to have become quite near to the Old Country, and I sometimes picture in my mind's eye those wonderful apiaries as being only a few miles removed from here.

In England, as you are aware, quite 90 per cent. of the beekeepers are amateurs, who keep a few stocks as a pleasurable recreation or hobby. I do not know of a single bee-farm in my county (Worcestershire) or even in the Midlands. It seems to be a generally accepted fact that beekeeping for honey only cannot be made a commercial success in England, unless queen-rearing, the production of nuclei, and the supplying of appliances are associated with it. I suppose the reason is we cannot compete with the imported honey from our colonies and elsewhere. Whether this is so or not, what does it matter to the amateur, who is a bee-lover first and a bee-keeper afterwards? If he does not make money out of his hobby (and he usually does), he derives an immense amount of delightful pleasure and satisfaction which cannot be expressed in terms of £ s. d.

The year 1920 will be long remembered by all beekeepers in the British Isles! Not since 1888 has there been such a disastrous season. In the middle of what should have been the honey flow we were having to feed in order to keep our bees from dying of starvation. Well, we hope next year will be a compensating one.

At the time I write, our bees are being tucked up for the winter, while yours will be sporting themselves on the threshold of the summer, and with an earnest resolve to fill as many supers as possible during the honey flow.

To you and all the members of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Association I send my best wishes for a most successful season.—I am, &c.,

GEO. HANDLEY.

54 All Saints road, King's Heath,
B'ham, 15/11/20.

* * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Now so many new beekeepers are starting, my experience in wiring frames might be interesting. I first make a stand to hold the spool of wire (say, 1lb.) in the following manner: I cut one piece 6in. x 4¾ and two pieces 6in. x 3 from the end of a petrol case, and with an expansion bit I cut a deep hole in centre of each narrow piece to take about half the ends of spool (must be a neat fit or wire will pass). Next nail one narrow piece on top of broad piece flush with edge and fit other piece to spool and screw in place so as to release empty spool, then crumple a piece of paper and put lightly under wire to keep from unwinding when cut. Drive one tack at top hole and one at bottom hole of frame (I use ¾ x 19 wire finishing nail and bend), then draw off, say, 2ft. or 3ft. of wire from spool, and if new frames draw through a piece of wax, pass through the frames, make a loop and pass over bottom nail, draw tight, twang ing centre wire, and finish by three turns on top nail, and bend both down. Do not forget wax if new frames. If spool is too tight or too loose, regulate with strip of wood across top.—I am, &c.,

F. SAUNDERS.

Rakaia, 1/1/21.

P.S.—Another poor season: no rain for months, except a few half-inch drizzles. All clover gone.

* * * *

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—In an article in the November issue I noticed where Mr. C. A. Pope says (at a meeting in the Trades Hall) he knew a friend who could wire 60 frames in an hour. I would like to state I tried this myself. I started off full gallop—hammer, tacks, wires and frames all in a turmoil. All went well (one to the minute), when at the half-hour I encountered a tangle of wires and a couple of obstinate tacks. This put me about four frames behind time, but still rushing on, I managed to creep up. With about five minutes to go, I had the misfortune to break a wire (tossed it aside). With renewed vigour I proceeded, going at it "hammer and tacks," when the hour struck. The race was over; up went the figures—59 and 1 broken

frame for the hour. You will see that I put up a good performance, coming second to my opponent. I had a bad handicap, for I had to use a bradawl, as the tacks were about ½-inch long, and were splitting the frames. Also, my encounter raffling out the tangled wires put a considerable delay on me. I hope this will interest Mr. Pope, also his "60-an-hour friend." As I am only a budding apiarist, and have not wired more than 500 frames, I put myself to the test.—I am, &c.,

C. R. ANNISON.

Peel Forest, Rangitata.

Answers to Correspondents.

R. E. E., Gordonton, T. G. McI., Auckland, W. G., Temuka.—Thanks for stamps.

R. E. G., Palmerston North.—You make rather a difficult proposal. The fact that all members of the Executive are commercial men makes it very difficult for them to leave their apiaries right in the busy time. You will see the Secretary is getting round a bit this season. Thanks for kind remarks re Journal.

C. S., Te Awamutu.—We have never met a case of swarming with laying workers. We have often found them attempting to raise queens from the eggs they had, but never found them to have swarmed.

Subscriptions Received.

[NOTE.—Should there be found any discrepancy, please write the Editor.]

B. Starr, Rona Bay, to December 21
B. W. Tisch, Hawera, to Jan. 22
B. H. Howard, Mosgiel, to Dec. 21
A. E. Harbour, Dunedin, to Dec. 21
C. Unwin, Winchester, to Dec. 21
E. Tatam, Whakatane, to Dec. 21
Excell & Hallam, Opotiki, to Dec. 21
J. W. Steel, McNab, to Nov. 21
W. Caldwell, Roslyn Bush, to Dec. 21
D. McQueen, Kennington, to Dec. 21
J. Peters, Kennington, to Dec. 21
P. Laffy, Stillwater, to Dec. 21
Mrs. P. Whitley, Claudelands, to Dec. 21
Mrs. A. Glennie, Blenheim, to Dec. 21
M. Bain, Timaru, to Dec. 21
H. Mackenzie, Lake Wakatipu, to Nov. 21
J. Mason, Reefton, to Nov. 21
R. E. Eagle, Gordonton, to Dec. 21
V. Sowman, Takaka, to Nov. 21
W. H. Brown, Staveley, to Dec. 21
F. E. Stewart, Rotorua, to Dec. 21
T. G. McIvor, Auckland, to Dec. 21
J. W. Sangster, Fairlie, to Nov. 21
W. Michell, Masterton, to Dec. 21
B. S. Carver, Waipukurau, to Dec. 21
S. G. Herbert, Naumai, to Dec. 21
H. Tippett, Hornby, to Dec. 21
K. M. Ward, Tauranga, to Dec. 21
W. J. Lennan, Edendale, to Dec. 21
H. F. Coghlan, Mangere, to Dec. 21
P. Watt, Mapua, to Dec. 21
G. T. Bateman, Dannevirke, to Jan. 22
G. Handley, England, to Dec. 21
W. A. Forsyth, Ohaupo, to Dec. 21
R. Gibb, Menzies Ferry, to Dec. 21
W. H. Brown, Marton, to Dec. 21
A. E. Little, Birkenhead, to Dec. 21
J. B. Lees, Mananui, to Jan. 22
L. Anderson, Kaitangata, to July 22
N. Askin, Tai Tapu, to Jan. 22
F. Richardson, England, to Dec. 21
L. W. Smith, Madison, U.S.A., to Dec. 21
J. A. McPherson, Dunedin, to Nov. 21
F. H. Wilson, Maheno, to Nov. 21
P. Dolan, Rakaia, to Dec. 21
D. McCulloch, Havelock North, to Dec. 21
W. Bayes, Silverdale, to Dec. 21
E. W. Walker (Rev.), Leeston, to Jan. 22
Mrs. J. Reid, Bennetts, to Nov. 21
P. Thomas, Ohura, to Jan. 22
G. D. Best, Rototuna, to Dec. 21
T. Holland, Huntly, to Jan. 22
R. Cottle, Taupaki, to Jan. 22
Mrs. A. Birch, Lakeside, to Dec. 21
W. Goodman, Temuka, to Jan. 22
Miss H. Pierce, Marton, to Dec. 21
J. T. Bull, Mount Somers, to Jan. 22
S. Burgess, Hautapu, to Jan. 22
A. C. Wilson, Dunedin, to Jan. 22
J. Campbell, Milton, to Jan. 22
P. L. D. Hudden, Gisborne, to Dec. 21
C. F. McGregor, Rahotu, to Dec. 21
A. C. A. Sexton, Auckland, to Jan. 22
S. J. Gedge, Stratford, to Jan. 22

Beekeepers' Exchange.

[Advertisements on this page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion. Cash must accompany order or will not be inserted. Addresses care Editor 6d. extra to cover cost of postage of replies.]

COMB FOUNDATION.

I CAN NOW SUPPLY COMB FOUNDATION at 3/6 per lb. f.o.r. Christchurch; or will make up Beekeepers' own Wax at 8d. per lb.

Beeswax wanted in any quantity.

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Trentham Camp.

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Two of the chief planks in the platform of the above Club are——the stimulation and conduction of research work in Bee Culture and the creation of International scholarly relations amongst progressive apiarists in all countries.

Membership fee, 10/6 per annum, which includes one year's subscription to the "Bee World," a paper that has by sheer merit come right up to the front rank of Bee literature. ENROL NOW!

Dr. A. Z. ABUSHADY,
Secretary.

FOR SALE, TWENTY HIVES Italian Bees; strong colonies; some with queens from Tauranga Apiary (last season).—Apply Miss KELLY, Maketu, Bay of Plenty.

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1921 Price List of ITALIAN QUEENS

PRICES:

	1	2	3	4	5
Untested	7/6	14/6	21/-	28/-	35/-
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
Tested	12/-	23/-	33/-	40/-	50/-
Select Tested ..	17/6	34/-			
Breeders	30/-				

Queens Guaranteed free from all disease, and bred from pure stock, which have been selected for Hardiness, Disease-resisting, Good Working, and Non-swarming Qualities.

Ninety-five per cent. of Untested Queens guaranteed purely mated.

TERMS: Nett cash with order. Cheques to have exchange added.

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All orders to be in by first week in March.

NOTE.—Owing to high cost of all materials and postage, no reductions can be allowed on list prices for larger quantities.

POSTAL ADDRESS:

R. Stewart, CROOKSTON, OTAGO.

New Zealand Co-op. Honey Producers' Assn., Ltd.
(H.P.A.)

Head Office:
Stanley Street, AUCKLAND.
Postal Address: Box 1293, Auckland.
Telegraphic Address: "Bees, Auckland."

Open Letter to Beekeepers.

DEAR SIRS,—

There are at present indications that the New Zealand Honey Crop for 1921 will be considerably greater than the quantity produced during 1920, and if these expectations are realised, there will probably be available for sale not less than 1,500,000 lbs. of Honey in excess of the amount reouired for domestic and other uses in New Zealand.

The disposal of this enormous quantity of surplus honey is the vital question in honey production. The disorganised condition of the world's markets to-day, the world-wide financial chaos, is already affecting the primary producer in this Dominion. For example, our surplus wool is practically a glut in the world's markets, and growers are being forced to accept prices less than half of what they confidently anticipated, and are even being forced into the position of having to hold crops in order to obtain something approaching payable prices at a future date. In other countries, in connection with cotton, wheat, sugar, etc., the markets have broken down, buyers are completely demoralised, and sellers are faced with enormous financial losses.

In most countries there is a strong public opinion at work in the so-far successful attempt to lower the prices of foodstuffs in particular. This has caused us to carefully examine the position of honey, world-wide, and to issue a note of warning to the N.Z. Beekeeper.

Our Association fortunately had foreseen the present troubles and the necessity for educating the N.Z. public as to the value of honey as a food, and made it possible for the people to obtain a standard brand of honey all the year round. The efforts of the Association and its members to extend the "EAT MORE HONEY" campaign has led to the consumption in New Zealand being enormously increased. Our brand "Imperial Bee" Honey is to be found in every corner of the Dominion, and the sale is increasing by leaps and bounds. During the past twelve months we have distributed in New Zealand over 500,000 lbs. of this brand. This is a very unique record, and points to the fact that our Home Market will absorb still more Honey.

On the other hand lies the fact that a great number of people, including returned soldiers, are going into beekeeping, and this will result in a very large increase in production from 1921 onwards; thus we shall always have to find Overseas Markets for a fairly large quantity of N.Z. Honey.

During the present year our Association tried out many markets in various parts of the world, and were successful in selling large quantities of honey in America and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, all markets to-day are in a precarious condition. The price of Honey in America has dropped considerably, consequent upon the heavy production, the breakdown of the sugar market, and the inability to export owing to adverse exchange conditions.

For the coming season Great Britain will doubtless receive a large proportion of our Honey, and new markets, if they compare favourably, will be utilised in addition.

Beekeepers from the foregoing will be able to realise that the question of prices for the coming season will entirely depend on how the whole of the N.Z. Honey Crop is marketed. Our Association stands in the position of being able to market to the best advantage. It has its fingers upon the pulse of the New Zealand market as well as upon the pulse of Overseas Markets. It can estimate the quantity of honey which can be consumed in New Zealand, and by taking steps to prevent a glut in the Dominion can stabilise prices here as a first thing.

Its experience of foreign markets will enable it to successfully undertake the disposal of the surplus Honey. The Association **stands for the Beekeeper all the while.** It is truly co-operative, owned by the Beekeepers themselves, and concerned only with the matter of obtaining for the N.Z. Producer a permanently good return **year in and year out** for the Honey which he raises.

To achieve these results, to prevent a slump in the Honey Market in N.Z., it is absolutely imperative that every Beekeeper in the Dominion who has Honey to sell should co-operate by joining the Association and by placing his Honey with the Association for disposal. Any other policy at the present juncture would be suicidal.

All Beekeepers can become members on the easiest possible terms, and full information and all particulars can be obtained from Head Office.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. RYLAND,

General Manager.

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